

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07  
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 EPA-04  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2119  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0194

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TAGS: ENRG CA  
SUBJECT: NOVA SCOTIA NIXES NUKES

1. MEMBERS OF ALL THREE POLITICAL PARTIES SPOKE OUT AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER IN NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATURE ON APR 17. MINES MINISTER WILLIAM GILLIS (WHO IS ALSO MINISTER-IN-CHARGE OF PROVINCIAL ENERGY COUNCIL) SAID THAT PROVINCE'S FIRST OPTION IS COAL AND THAT THE "NUCLEAR POWER OPTION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED NOW OR IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE." GILLIS WAS RESPONDING TO QUERY FROM MLA PAUL MACEWAN (NDP) WHO OPPOSED NUCLEAR POWER BECAUSE OF PROBLEM OF WASTE DISPOSAL. SAID MACEWAN: "I AM SUSPICIOUS OF SHORT CUTS TO SUCCESS WHICH MAY CREATE GREATER PROBLEMS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS."

2. WHEN MLA G E SHEEHY (PC) SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE EXPECTED A NUCLEAR REACTOR TO BE INSTALLED WITHIN THE NEXT 10 YEARS, PREMIER GERALD REGAN INTERJECTED, "IS THAT YOUR POLICY? IT CERTAINLY ISN'T OURS." DR SHEEHY REPLIED BY SAYING HE WOULD CERTAINLY HATE TO SEE THAT PREDICTION COME TRUE  
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AND SUGGESTED THAT GOVT PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON CONSERVATION AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF PRODUCING ENERGY WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE OIL.

3. COMMENT: THE AVERSION TO NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION IN NOVA SCOTIA FELT BY THE POLITICIANS IS NOT SHARED BY NOVA SCOTIA POWER CORPORATION PRESIDENT LES KIRKPATRICK.

TESTIFYING BEFORE THE PROVINCIAL PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION IN THE AUTUMN OF 1976, KIRKPATRICK SAW THE  
POSSIBLE NECESSITY BY EARLY 1978 FOR A DECISION ON BUILDING  
A NUCLEAR PLANT IN NS. TWO THINGS HAVE HAPPENED SINCE THEN,  
HOWEVER, TO PUT OFF, PERHAPS INDEFINITELY, THE NECESSITY  
FOR DECIDING IN FAVOR OF SUCH A PLANT: DISCOVERY OF  
EXTENSIVE NEW COAL DEPOSITS IN CAPE BRETON AND THE  
PROPOSED NEW FEDERALLY-FUNDED COAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME  
WHICH WILL INVOLVE EXPENDITURES OF CDOLS 265 MILLION  
IN CAPE BRETON. SUBSTANTIALLY-INCREASED COAL PRODUCTION  
UNDER THIS PROGRAM MAY NOT COME ABOUT, HOWEVER, FOR FIVE  
TO SIX YEARS AND FUNDY TIDAL POWER--PROVIDED IT EVER  
COMES--WILL REQUIRE FIVE OR MORE YEARS BEYOND  
THAT DATE. BUT REGARDLESS OF THE TIME LAGS INVOLVED (AND "GOING  
NUCLEAR" WOULD INVOLVE LAGS FOR NS AT LEAST AS LONG),  
COAL-FUELED OR TIDE-FUELED POWER WILL BE AT LEAST AS EXPENSIVE  
AS TODAY'S OIL-FUELED POWER. HOWEVER, EVEN IF THE NUCLEAR  
OPTION TURNED OUT TO BE marginally CHEAPER PER KWH TO  
BUILD, IT WOULD PROVIDE MUCH LESS IN THE WAY OF EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES THAN EITHER COAL-FIRED THERMAL PLANTS OR  
FUNDY TIDAL POWER. THUS THE DECISION OF THE NS LEGISLATURE  
TO GIVE SHORT SHRIFT TO NUCLEAR POWER SEEMS TO MAKE GOOD  
SENSE FOR MORE THAN ECOLOGICAL REASONS ALONE. IT ALSO  
MAKES GOOD SENSE POLITICALLY. END COMMENT.  
MOORE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCE, POLICIES, NUCLEAR ENERGY  
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**Draft Date:** 18 apr 1978  
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